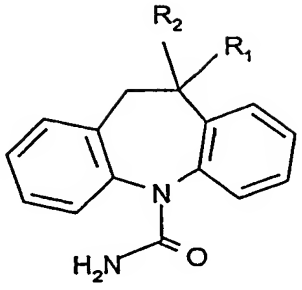
CLAIMS

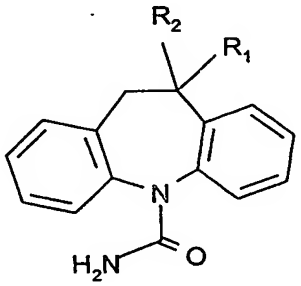
1. The use of a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein (a) R_1 and R_2 together form an oxy group or (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is hydroxy or acetoxy, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of agitation.

2. The use of a compound of formula I



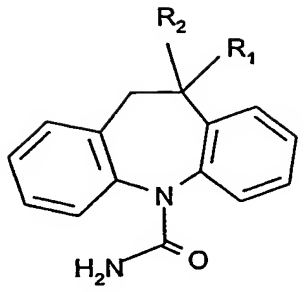
(I)

wherein (a) R_1 and R_2 together form an oxy group or (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is hydroxy or acetoxy, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the treatment of agitation.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the disease is behavioral agitation.

4. The use according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the patient to be treated is diagnosed to have Alzheimer's disease.

5. A method for the treatment of agitation in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein (a) R_1 and R_2 together form an oxy group or (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is hydroxy or acetoxy,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

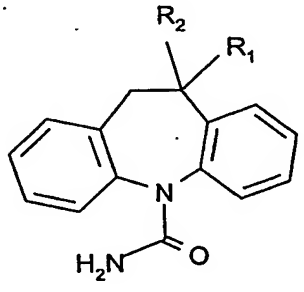
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the compound of formula I is oxcarbazepine.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the disease is behavioral agitation.

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein the subject to be treated is diagnosed to have Alzheimer's disease.

9. A pharmaceutical composition which incorporates as active agent a compound of formula I according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of agitation.

10. A combination comprising (a) a compound of formula I



(I)

wherein (a) R_1 and R_2 together form an oxy group or (b) R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is hydroxy or acetoxy,

and (b) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of nootropic plant extracts, calcium antagonists, cholinesterase inhibitors, dihydroergotoxin, nicergoline, piracetame, purine derivates, pyritinol, vincamine and vinpocetine, in which the active ingredients are present in each case in free form or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt and optionally at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. Combination according to claim 10, wherein the compound (b) is a cholinesterase inhibitor.

12. Use of a combination according to claim 10 or 11 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of agitation in dementia patients.

13. A commercial package comprising a combination according to claim 10 or 11 together with instructions for simultaneous, separate or sequential use thereof in the treatment of agitation in dementia patients.